

Message Text

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61

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:PWKRIEBEL:DPW

APPROVED BY P - AMBASSADOR PORTER

EA/K - MR. NEWSOM

EA/J - MR. LEVIN

S/S - MR. GAMMON

EA - MR. SNEIDER

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R 201901Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187238

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJECT- KIM TAE CHUNG AFFAIR: ROK FOREIGN MINISTER'S

CONVERSATION WITH UNDER SECRETARY PORTER

REF: STATE 182909

1. AS A RESULT OF HIS DINNER CONVERSATIONS WITH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER KIM YONG-SIK ON SEPTEMBER 13, AMBASSADOR PORTER BELIEVES HE PERSUADED THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO EXERCISE HIS PERSONAL INFLUENCE WITH THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH THE JAPANESE ON THE KIM TAE CHUNG AFFAIR. HE OBVIOUSLY DID NOT RELISH THE PROSPECT, BUT SEEMED IMPRESSED BY AMBASSADOR PORTER'S CONCERN THAT THIS AFFAIR MIGHT BE A PROBLEM NOT ONLY IN KOREA OR JAPAN, BUT ALSO ONE THAT WAS FAST GROWING INTO A PUBLIC ISSUE THAT COULD AFFECT THE WORK FONMIN EXPECTED TO DO IN NEW YORK.

2. THE KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER DEMURRED AT THE DIFFICULTY IN WORKING ON THE PROBLEM FROM THIS DISTANCE, BUT AMBASSA-
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DOR PORTER INSISTED THAT THE MATTER COULD BECOME MUCH WORSE

IF HE DID NOT TAKE AN INTEREST IN IT. AMBASSADOR PORTER
SAID THE KOREANS SHOULD NOT DELUDE THEMSELVES THAT THE
JAPANESE DID NOT HAVE EVIDENCE. HE BELIEVED THEY DID AND
THAT IT WAS HARD, THOUGH HE HIMSELF HAD NOT SEEN IT. AM-
BASSADOR PORTER SAID IT WAS A MOST DELICATE MATTER FOR THE
JAPANESE BUT THEY WERE TRYING TO KEEP IT UNDER CONTROL IN
THE FACE OF ATTACKS IN THE DIET AND THE MEDIA. RUSH

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